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EXPRESS MAIL NO. EL 399096455US

PATENT

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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re: Patent Application of : Group Art Unit 3738  
Hans Grundei et al. :  
Appln. No.: 09/079,618 : Examiner: H. Phan  
Filed: May 15, 1998 :  
For: FEMUR ENDOPROSTHESIS FOR : Attorney Docket  
ARTIFICIAL HIP JOINT : No. 8056-80 (E 1875)  
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**PRELIMINARY COMMUNICATION**

This is in response to the Office Action dated December 29, 1999 (Paper No. 8) and the telephone conversations of February 23 and 24, 2000 with Examiner Phan. This Communication is being filed together with a Request for Continued Prosecution Application (CPA).

Claims 1-8 are presently pending in the application.

**REMARKS**

On February 23, 2000, the undersigned telephoned Examiner Phan to request an interview at the Patent Office for March 17, 2000. The Examiner stated that he could not grant another interview in this application, since a telephone interview had already been held in this case on August 4, 1999. However, the Examiner agreed that an interview could be granted if a CPA request were filed before the interview, since that would start the prosecution anew.